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Senate committee approves McManus direct wine shipping bill

LANSING – Wineries could ship up to 1,500 cases per year directly to Michigan consumers under legislation approved Wednesday by the Michigan Senate Economic Development, Small Business and Regulatory Reform Committee, announced Sen. Michelle McManus, sponsor of the bill.

“I have said from the beginning that I believe Michigan can responsibly and fairly regulate direct wine shipments in our state,” said McManus, R-Lake Leelanau. “This legislation strikes an important balance by giving Michigan wineries room to grow and blossom without threatening to undermine our state’s system for distributing alcohol.”

The legislation, revised versions of Senate Bill 625 and House Bill 4959, is the result of months of negotiations spearheaded by McManus. Under the package, sellers would be required to apply for a permit that would allow them to direct ship up to 1,500 cases of wine to consumers each year. Sellers also would be required to submit quarterly reports to the Liquor Control Commission and pay all applicable sales and excise taxes.

The U.S. Supreme Court recently struck down Michigan’s law banning direct wine shipments from outside the state while allowing shipments from in-state wineries because it discriminated against out-of-state sellers.

Both bills now go to the full Senate for consideration.

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